

For Immediate Release
July 28, 2017
Newburgh, NY

Contact:

Diana Mangaser / NCLB Design Director / 845 565 5360
dmangaser@newburghcommunitylandbank.org

Laura Genes / NCLB Artist-In-Vacancy / 917 545 9454
lasgenes@mit.edu

CHARGER, AN ARTIST-IN-VACANCY PERFORMANCE, BY STEPHEN KWOK

Newburgh, N.Y. — The Newburgh Community Land Bank announces *CHARGER*, a performance by artist Stephen Kwok produced by Artist-In-Vacancy Laura Genes, for the vacant Mid-Broadway lots in Newburgh, August 5th, 2017 at 2pm.

"In Charger, a group of runners are crouched in a starting block positions within a field of sprinklers. As the sprinklers mechanically spray water, the runners become soaked, but never break from their positions. They maintain their pose of anticipation. Within this elongated moment, Charger flickers between preparation and exhaustion, pleasure and labor, violence and care." - Stephen Kwok

CHARGER promises to be a beautiful and collaborative disposition of endurance by Newburgh's student-athletes. The audience will be invited to watch the runners take their marks within a snaking network of sprinklers on the large vacant lot in the heart of Newburgh's historic and commercial district. Kwok has presented *CHARGER* twice before, including in London this past Spring, but this iteration will be the first time he will be staging the performance in a public setting and with local athletes. Active lifestyle brand Outdoor Voices has graciously sponsored the event by providing wardrobe. The event is free and open to the public.

~ ~ ~ ~

[The Newburgh Community Land Bank](#) (NCLB) is a local non-profit whose mission is to improve the quality of life in Newburgh by stabilizing and revitalizing abandoned properties. Through the Artist-In-Vacancy pilot, NCLB opens properties as temporary platforms for creative interventions.

[Laura Genes](#) is one of the 2017 NCLB artist in vacancy and a Masters of Science candidate in Art, Culture and Technology at MIT. As a Priscilla King Gray Public Service Fellow she is currently living and working in Newburgh to support the Artist in Vacancy program as an organizer, co-curator and artist. Working through curation, performance and sculpture, her recent projects tackle the question of how to re-activate forms of citizenship that are not as accessible or attainable on a larger scale.

[Stephen Kwok](#) creates situations in which contradictions between a site and the activity within it may emerge. His work has been exhibited at Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin, The Center for Performance Research, American Medium, Julius Caesar, The Chicago Cultural Center, The Gene Siskel Film Center, Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, The Ogden Museum, and the Lawndale Art Center in Houston. He was an artist-in-residence at Delfina Foundation in London and Chez Bushwick in Brooklyn. He is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Masters of Fine Arts program and is currently based in New York.

Newburgh Elite Track Team is composed of student-athletes from local public high school, Newburgh Free Academy that train together during year-round under the guidance Coach, Malcolm Burks. The runners makeup one of the country's premier sprint relay teams and consistently compete at the national level.

[Outdoor Voices](#) is an active lifestyle brand founded on the belief that exercise doesn't equal competition and activity can be fun. Based in Austin, TX with offices in New York, NY, Outdoor Voices is on a mission to embrace Recreation with ease, humor, and delight through a growing community nationwide.

For further information about the event, please see our website: www.newburghcommunitylandbank.org/artist-in-vacancy